

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing warranties that warrant one or more facts associated with a digitally-signed electronic message, comprising:
 - 5 assigning a warranty cap to an entity that issues digital certificates;
tracking a warranty volume for the entity;
receiving a request for a warranty from a subscriber to whom the entity issued a digital certificate, the request for a warranty specifying a warranted amount and claim period;
 - 10 evaluating the request for a warranty to ensure that the warranted amount will not cause the entity's warranty volume to exceed the entity's warranty cap;
transmitting a message that confirms issuance of the requested warranty, the message being digitally signed by a component maintained by the entity, the warranty comprising a contract between the entity and the subscriber, a relying party being a third-
 - 15 party beneficiary to the contract;
receiving a validation request from the relying party, the validation request requesting validation of a digital certificate for the component that signed the message confirming issuance of the requested warranty;
transmitting a validation response to the relying party.

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